

REMARKS:

- 1) Referring to Item 10) of the Office Action Summary, the Examiner is respectfully requested to indicate the approval and acceptance of the Formal Drawings originally filed with this application on February 24, 2004.
- 2) The Examiner's attention is directed to applicant's second Information Disclosure Statement being filed together with this Response. Please consider the cited reference, and return an initialed, signed and dated acknowledgment copy of the IDS Form PTO-1449 of May 13, 2005.
- 3) The Examiner's attention is also directed to the enclosed accurate literal translation of German Patent Application 103 07 870.3 as filed on February 25, 2003. The priority of the German application is claimed under 35 U.S.C. §119. The priority claim is hereby perfected by filing the enclosed accurate translation of the priority application. It will be evident that this US application is based on the German application, and that at least claims 1 to 17 of the present application are supported in the written description of the German application. The benefit of the priority date of February 25, 2003 overcomes the prior art rejections as will be discussed below.
- 4) Referring to section 2 on pages 2 to 3 of the Office Action, the rejection of claims 1 to 6, 15 and 16 as anticipated by US Patent 6,776,457 (Muin et al.) is respectfully traversed.

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In view of the foreign priority claim in this application, and the presently enclosed translation of the foreign priority application, this US application has the benefit of the foreign priority filing date of February 25, 2003. Thereby it is established that the present invention was invented no later than February 25, 2003. Accordingly, the Muin et al. patent, with a US filing date of March 28, 2003, is not available as a prior art reference under 35 U.S.C. §102(e). It is also noted that the Muin et al. patent is assigned to the same Assignee as the present application.

As the rejection is without prior art basis, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection of claims 1 to 6, 15 and 16 based on the Muin et al. patent.

- 5) Referring to section 4 on pages 3 to 4 of the Office Action, the rejection of claims 7 to 14 and 17 to 19 as obvious over Muin et al. in view of US Patent 4,157,797 (Fox) is respectfully traversed. As pointed out above, the Muin et al. patent is not available as a prior art reference in view of the present application's earlier claimed priority date. Without the Muin et al. reference, the rejection based on a combination of Muin et al. and Fox necessarily fails. The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection of claims 7 to 14 and 17 to 19 as obvious over a combination of Muin et al. and Fox.
- 6) The additional prior art made of record requires no particular comments because it has not been applied against the claims.

7) Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application, including all present claims 1 to 19, are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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Applicant

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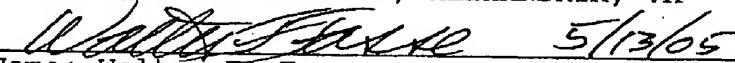
Enclosures:

IDS, Form PTO-1449,
Translation of Priority App.,
Translator's Declaration,
Term Extension,
Form PTO-2038

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CERTIFICATE OF FAX TRANSMISSION:

I hereby certify that this correspondence with all indicated enclosures is being transmitted by telefax to (703) 872-9306 on the date indicated below, and is addressed to: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450.

 5/13/05
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